

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00525 240338Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SMI-01 /017 W

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R 210622Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9361

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT

REF: A) STATE 44119; B) SOFIA 355

1. SITES' "PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONDITIONS" FOR U.S. SHOWINGS OF THRACIAN ARTS EXHIBIT PER REFTEL A, WERE GIVEN MARCH 7 TO BULGARIANS, WHO HAVE THEM UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO PRESS, AS THEY ALSO HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION OUR PROPOSALS FOR TWO MAJOR U.S. CULTURAL/INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFTEL B), AND WE WISHIMOSIBVEINATURE OF SITES' RESPONSE TO PERCOLATE. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT BULGARIANS WILL RESPOND FAIRLY SOON AND POSITIVELY.

2. MEANWHILE WE WISH COMMEND SITES FOR ITS FORTHCOMING RESPONSE, EVEN THOUGH BULGARIANS WILL NO DOUBT NEGOTIATE HARD ON SOME DETAILS. SINCE SITES PROPOSES KEEPING EXHIBIT IN U.S. LONGER THAN BULGARIANS HAD ENVISIONED, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THEY MAY WISH SEND EXHIBIT TO BRAZIL FROM LONDON AND THEN TO U.S. LATER IN 1976 (REFTEL B, PARA 5). WE PRESUME WASHINGTON WILL PREFER THAT WE STRESS THE BICENTENNIAL ASPECT AND SUGGEST TO BULGARIANS THAT THEY DEFER THE BRAZILIAN TOUR IF NECESSARY.

3. FYI: WE ARE RECOMMENDING IN OUR FY 1976 PGOGRAM PROPOSAL THAT IVP FUNDS BE USED FOR PER DIEM EXPENSES OF BULGARIAN CURATORS (REFTEL A, PARA 1.E).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA00525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0845
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750327/aaaaaxzb.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 44119, 75 SOFIA 355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, BU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006